

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 02813 120948Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /059 W

-----056647 121319Z /45

R 120823Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4172

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT PDIP BM KN

SUBJ: NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT WITH COUP PLOTTERS

REF: RANGOON 2733 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMBASSY SOURCES, WHO ARE USUALLY WELL-INFORMED IN MATTERS SUCH AS THIS, A SECOND RANGOON EMBASSY (IN ADDITION TO BANGLADESH) WAS INVOLVED WITH ONE OF THE ARRESTED COUP PLOTTERS (REFTEL). THE JAPANESE TOLD US THAT WOULD-BE ASSASSIN MAHN DAR WAIK HAD BEEN DEEPLY ENGAGED WITH THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN A GEM SMUGGLING ENTERPRISE. AS FAR AS THE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, THE DPRK INTEREST IN MAHN DAR WEIK HAD BEEN PURELY FINANCIAL, RATHER THAN POLITICAL, IN NATURE. THE GUB, ACCORDING TO THE JAPANESE, IS FULLY AWARE OF MAHN DAR WAIK'S KOREAN CONNECTIONS, BUT DOES NOT PLAN ANY ACTION AGAINST THE EMBASSY.

2. A CAREFUL RE-READING OF THE ORIGINAL NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT (REFTEL) LENDS CREDENCE TO THE ABOVE, SINCE IT STATES THAT MAHN DAR WEIK "HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN SMUGGLED GEMS TRADE" IN 1975-76. MOREOVER, A SEPTEMBER 9 NEWSPAPER STORY ON THE TRIAL REPORTS THAT MAHN DAR WAIK "WAS A TRANSLATOR WITH THE NEWS PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE KOREAN EMBASSY."

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 02813 120948Z

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE BURMESE ARE UNLIKELY TO MAKE A PUBLIC ISSUE OF THIS MATTER, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF NE WIN'S FORTH-COMING VISIT TO PYONGYANG, IT CANNOT FAIL TO AFFECT THE GUB'S PRIVATE OPINION OF THE DPRK AND ITS DIPLOMATS.

BARTLEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PLOTS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, EMBASSIES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977RANGOO02813  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 77 RANGOON 2733  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, PDIP, BM, KN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009